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H – 925

International Court of Justice

H0925 – 0001

H0925-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE ACOMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

30 MAY 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Captain Joseph Tubridy
Mr. Rasumov.

(The Commission convened at 1645 hours.)

DR. BOEHM: Col. Neave suggested that after every witness has been questioned, it should be suggested whether or not it would be advisable or desirable for the witness to remain in Nurnberg. I therefore would like to state in that connection, that I would like to have Mr. Juettner remain here, because if any witnesses at all will be questioned in front of the Tribunal, this is the man I would like to have.

CAPT. TUBRIDY: Will you submit your application to ~~kmx~~ be used before the Tribunal?

DR. BOEHM: No, I cannot do that, because I do not know how many witnesses are to be questioned.

COL. GRIFFITH JONES: I think Dr. Boehm means that in the event of any witnesses being called to testify before the Tribunal, this one would most likely be called and therefore he should be kept in the jail here in Nurnberg.

DR. BOEHM: That's what I want.

CAPT. ~~THE~~ TUBRIDY: I understand the point, but you might indicate in writing that this is an important witness, and that you would like to have him go before the Tribunal, in the event that witnesses ~~will be allowed~~ do go before the Tribunal.

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THE SA

MR. HANS OBERLINDOBER, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

~~DIRECT EXAMINATION~~

CAPT. TUBRIDY: Will the witness stand and give us your full name?

WITNESS: Hans O b e r l i n d o b e r.

CAPT. TUBRIDY: Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will ~~tell~~ speak the ~~whole~~ pure truth and ~~hide~~ will withhold and add nothing.

(Witness repeats the oath.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q Witness, since when were you in the NSDAP?

A Since 1922.

Q What rank did you have in the SA?

A Obergruppenfuehrer.

Q What was your reason for taking up the connection with the Western powers in order to come to friendly relations with them?

A After Hitler took over the power in Germany, the main set up of the Government was carried by former war veterans, and that fact alone, of course, aroused the interest of war veterans all over the world. During a meeting of the British legation in 1934, the Prince of Wales spoke to the war veterans of the world. He asked them to combine their moral powers to insure the peace of the world. At that time, an especially strong organization of former war veterans was going on in France, and at that time there were those famous demonstrations before the French chamber of deputies. After the end of the

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war, the war veterans organized all over, not only to take care of the wounded, but also to carry over the thoughts of the war on the front and the continuation of the friendship which began at the front and which should be carried into civil life.

Q How was the first attempt at German friendship started?

A Of course, there were a number of people who were skeptical about such an attempt, but the majority of former war veterans were hopeful that the truce between the former veterans of wars could insure the peace, or at least to bring these countries to a better understanding with each other.

Q Who became, on the French side, the main person fighting for such an understanding?

DR. KEMPNER: May I object, your honor.

COL. KAREV: I am not very clear as to the reason of this line of questioning, and what connection it has with the SA and the SS, and the organization that we are talking about.

CAPT. TUBRIDY: MR ASHENAUER. Will you make a short statement as to what you are trying to prove by the use of this witness?

DR. ASHENAUER: I want to prove that the attempts for world peace and understanding were supported by the high SA leadership. This would be evidence against the following war which was supposed to have been planned.

I have to ask whether this man in France was for such an understanding because the Prosecution otherwise would state that it was just a unit in France, Germany, England and Poland that accepted such a policy.

M. MONNERAY: Perhaps it would be advisable to ask the Defense Counsel to ask the witness to give information about the French people, but not to ask the witness about the French movements.

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DR. ASCHENAUER: This man, as the representative of the SA, does have the facts and does have the information, and I am not going into a long story. I am not going back to a number of years.

M. MONNERAY: The next question was dealing with the movement of the French, as far as the foreign soldiers were concerned, and this question seems to be absolutely irrelevant. Before that the witness was talking about the events of 6 February 1934, and those are absolutely irrelevant also. The demonstrations before the French Chancellory, as a matter of fact, were demonstrations of Fascist movements.

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q I therefore ask, which basically is the same question, with whom did you have discussions or negotiations in France?

A Mainly with the three large French war veteran organizations.

Q ~~What were they?~~

~~A~~

Q When were the first attempts made?

A The first discussions were on 2 August 1934, in Baden-Baden. At first these discussions served only the purpose of exchanging information, and a few weeks later, I and two of my aides made a visit to the offices of the Union Federale of which Henri Pichot was the President.

COL. KAREV: Why do we speak of such an organization and how they originated. It isnot quite clear here why one describes the origination of vice organizations. We do not want to hear the reasons for the origination of these vice organizations.

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DR. ASCHENAUER: I think the Russian prosecutor is mistaken when he speaks of vice organizations in this connection. From my historical knowledge, it was more or less socialistic groups in France. And in addition to that, I only have to refer to the documents of 18 December 1945 on page 5136, on which it states, "The 4th part of the Nazi activity was in its use as an agency for the forming of an Army in Germany in opposition to the Treaty of Versailles, and for the preparation of the youth in Germany, both physically and in spirit, for an aggressive war."

I hope to be allowed here to prove that.

CAPT. TUBRIDY: It is now five o'clock, and I think that you have quite a bit to prove by this witness.

DR. ASCHENAUER: I want to prove a lot too, but if I am not interrupted, I will finish in three quarters of an hour.

CAPT. TUBRIDY: Then we will adjourn until tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock.

(The court adjourned at 1700 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of Hans OBERLINDER, taken on 30 May 19461

Liliani A. Ahuna
xxReporter (pp )

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F Tubridy
Commissioner

Commissioner

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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I understand the point, but you might indicate in writing that this is an important witness, and that you would like to have him go before the Tribunal, in the event that witnesses do go before the Tribunal.

THE S.A.

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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will the witness stand and give us your full name?

WITNESS: Hans O b e r l i n d o b e r.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me?

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

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(Witness repeats the oath)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. ASCHENAUER:

Q Witness, since when were you in the NSDAP?

A Since 1922.

Q What rank did you have in the SA?

A Obergruppenfuehrer.

Q What was your reason for taking up the connection with the Western powers in order to come to friendly relations with them?

A After Hitler took over the power in Germany, the main set up of the Government was carried by former war veterans, and that fact alone, of course, aroused the interest of war veterans all over the world. During a meeting of the British legation in 1934, the Prince of Wales spoke to the war veterans of the world. He asked them to combine their moral powers to insure the peace of the world. At that time, an especially strong organization of former war veterans was going on in France, and at that time there were those famous demonstrations before the French chamber of deputies. After the end of the war, the war veterans organized all over, not only to take care of the wounded, but also to carry over the thoughts of the war on the front and the continuation of the friendship which began at the front and which should be carried into civil life.

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as to what you are trying to prove by the use of this witness?

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Piilani Ahuna
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
Commissioner



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